

- 67. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 66, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of  $SiO_2$  to  $M_2O$ , where M is alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 15:1 to 40:1.
- 68. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 66, wherein the sol has an S-value within the range of from 25 to 35%.
- 69. (New) An aqueous sol containing silica-based particles, wherein the sol has a specific surface area of at least 115  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$  aqueous sol and an S-value within the range of from 10 to 45%.
- 70. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 69, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of  $SiO_2$  to  $M_2O$ , where M is alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 15:1 to 40:1.
- 71. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 69, wherein the silica-based particles have a specific surface area of at least  $550 \text{ m}^2/\text{g SiO}_2$ .
  - 72. (New) An aqueous silica-based sol having:
- (a) a specific surface area of at least 115 m<sup>2</sup>/g aqueous sol;
- (b) an S-value within the range of from 10 to 45%; and
- (c) a molar ratio of  $SiO_2$  to  $M_2O$ , where M is alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 15:1 to 40:1;

and containing

(d) silica-based particles which have a specific surface area of at least 550 and less than 1000  $\mbox{m}^2\mbox{/g SiO}_2.$ 

## **IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please add the following abstract on a separate page following the claims:

## Abstract of the Disclosure

